

CLAIMS:

1. An insertable medical device having a protective surface coating, said coating comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymers and thermosetting polymers and said coating being noncontinuous on said medical device.
2. The medical device of Claim 1 wherein said device is a dilatation balloon.
3. A dilatation balloon having improved durability formed from a thermoplastic polymer, said balloon having a non-continuous protective coating.
4. The dilatation balloon of Claim 3 wherein said balloon is formed from a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, high density polyethylene, polyamides, polyether block amides, polycarbonates, stiff polyurethanes, and mixtures thereof.
5. The dilatation balloon of Claim 3 wherein said coating comprises a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic polymeric and thermosetting polymeric materials.
6. The dilatation balloon of Claim 3 wherein said coating comprises a polyurethane.
7. The dilatation balloon of Claim 3 wherein said noncontinuous coating is selected from the group consisting of a waffle pattern, a stripe pattern and a pattern having circular perforations.
8. The dilatation balloon of Claim 3 wherein said balloon is formed from a noncompliant material.
9. A method of providing a dilatation balloon with improved durability comprising the steps of:
- a) forming a balloon wherein said balloon has a body, at least one cone portion, and at least one waist portion; and
 - c) applying a noncontinuous protective coating to said balloon.
10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said balloon is formed by first extruding a tubular preform and blowing said preform into a balloon.
11. The method of Claim 9 wherein said noncontinuous coating is applied in a pattern.
12. The method of Claim 9 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting

